[Altai Kazakhs]

621 The nomads in question[1] occupied the steppe northeast of Zaisan Nur,
556 around the uppermost course of the Cherny (Black) Irtysh,
[101] as semi-sedentary farmer-herders in the 1920's: the
433 poorest Kazakhs dwelled in the winter camps the year
round, and supported themselves by caring for their own
farming plots and those of the wealthier Kazakhs and by
hunting. The wealthier Kazakhs, in contrast, maintained
a mixed economy, based mainly on herding, but with some
farming, aided by the poorer Kazakhs. They were for the
most part Naiman, with some Kereit elements among them.[268]
[177.62] Hence the following account of aul nomadism is to be
understood as an advanced state of acculturation, and
connected only to the pastoralism of moderate and wealthy
Kazakhs.[2]

621 The aul in its several variations was entirely a
kin unit among these Kazakhs. The Kazakh aul elsewhere,
even at an earlier period, no longer comprised a homo-
geneous kin group. This was not so among the northeast-
ernmost Kazakhs. The auls of the latter fall into two
categories: the fully nomadic auls, such as those of
the Kazakhs in the Kosh-Agach aimak (Oirot Autonomous
Oblast');[269] and auls which are entirely sedentary, such
as those of the poor Kazakhs mentioned above, members

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[268] Ibid., 1-3, 62.

[269] Samoilovich, 312.

[1] [For further background on the Altai Kazakhs, cf. Cat.116, AHI Mongolia, p.523ff--Analyst]

[2] [For further data, cf. Cat.116, AHI Mongolia, pp. 527-544--Analyst]

621 There is a correlation between the wealth of a Kazakh community and small size, its pastoral life requiring that it be small and mobile, and its composition by closely and homogeneously related kin. In this manner, the wealth, size, and consanguineal composition are all interrelated.

621 That the validity of this four-fold correlation
•433 is not restricted to the northeastern Kazakh domain may
556 be seen in an example drawn from the western portion, in the old territory of the Little Horde. Here it has been reported for the same period, the 1920's, that the poorer Kazakhs took up agriculture, the richer maintained a mixed economy of herding and farming; the auls of the richer Kazakhs were composed only of close kin, while in the encampments of the poorer, two or three different, unrelated groups of kin were joined together.[273] From this we may infer a correlation between economic pursuit, wealth or poverty, and consanguineal composition of auls of the Little Horde; unfortunately, the fourth element in the correlation, that of size, cannot be confirmed for lack of data.

621 The Altai Mountain Kazakhs of the Middle Horde
233 moved as a unit from winter to summer pasturage provided the aul was small; if the aul was large, it broke up into

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[273] Ibid., 1927, 8-10; Bukei Khan, 60-62.

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The situation in herding is similar. The leading pastoral regions are in the western parts of Kazakhstan, the Guryev, West Kazakhstan, and Aktyubinsk regions. There has been a steady decline in cattle, sheep, and goats in the Guryev region from 1946 to 1953, which means that Kazakh herding in this region has not participated in the postwar recovery (Kazakhs form over two-thirds of the population of the Guryev region). A similar decline in cattle has been reported for West Kazakhstan and South Kazakhstan. In the regions of East and North Kazakhstan, cattle and sheep are below the prewar figures. Throughout the republic the ratio of cows to the total number of cattle in the kolkhoz herds is disproportionately low (24.3 per cent) and is falling; for instance, in the year 1952 the number of cows dropped by 10.8 per cent. Cattle have been falling in number from year to year in both collective and state farms.[1]

The milk yield per kolkhoz was lower in 1952 than in 1940.[2] This statement is an even graver admission than it seems at first glance, because the individual collective farm is larger in 1952 than it was in 1940 and there are fewer kolkhozy now than then.

In the same period, 1940-1952, the average milk yield per cow dropped 76 liters.[3] The average annual milk yield per cow for 1939 was 650 liters[4]; if it can be assumed that there was little change between 1939 and 1940, a fall of 13 per cent in milk production per cow is indicated for the 1940-1952 period.

Milk production is closely associated with the statistics of gravidity, and there has been a considerable decline in this category in Kazakhstan as well. In 1948, out of 100 cows 88 were with calf, while only 74 out of every 100 were with calf in 1951. Similarly, of every 100 mares, 78 were with foal in 1948; this figure had dropped to 67 in 1951.[5]

The area sown in livestock feed had fallen in 1952 below the prewar (1940) level; this reduction led to the critical situation regarding milk production, and that of meat and wool as well. Despite the tremendous gain in pork, total meat production fulfilled only 60 per cent of plan. The same ratio of 60 per cent holds for wool and cotton.[6] The situation regarding wool is particularly bad; the wool yield per sheep has fallen off even more sharply than the milk yield per cow. In the period 1940-1952 the annual wool yield per sheep fell from 2.4 to 1.9 kilograms, or 4.2 pounds, an over-all drop of 21 per cent.[7]

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On the one hand, the Kazakhs do not cooperate in the Soviet pattern of production; on the other, the Soviet emphases are such as to exclude the Kazakhs. For example, the stress on such alien foods as pork, potatoes, and garden vegetables, in the development of the urban pattern, means that as the Kazakh moves to the city he must give up many of his old food habits. And yet only in the city can one find higher learning.

[1] *Ibid.*, 10 Oct 53.
[2] *Ibid.*, 10 Oct 53.
[3] *Ibid.*, 14 Nov 53.
[4] *Ibid.*, 4 Oct 52.
[5] *Ibid.*, 21 Sep 52.
[6] *Ibid.*, 14 Nov 53.
[7] *Ibid.*, 10 Oct 53.